

26th March 2025

Paul Murphy, TD
Dáil Éireann
Kildare Street
Dublin 2.

PQ 2326/25

To ask the Minister for Health if there are plans to provide therapeutic support for child asylum seekers and refugees coming from warzones including Gaza. -Paul Murphy

Dear Deputy Murphy,

The Health Service Executive have been requested to reply directly to your above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

In general, therapy services that are on offer for children from warzones are mainstream therapy services which cater for the needs of the general population (Child Primary Care Psychology and CAMHS) as opposed to specialised services. These are operated through waiting lists.

However depending on geographic location, a variety of services can provide psychosocial supports including NGO provision and a guidance document was developed in 2023 to guide interventions and resources for services who coordinate and deliver a psychosocial response locally. The *Psychosocial Response for Refugees and Applicants Seeking Protection* provides guidance on:

- Layer 1 Information and signposting: Basic Information and Signposting (See [My Health, My Language](#): a HSE webpage and online document- "[About the Irish Health System](#)" –available in multiple languages [Getting healthcare in Ireland](#) (HSE webpage) UNHCR – UN Refugee Agency Guide to Ireland - [Where to seek Help](#) Webpage. Provides link to voluntary and community sector support)
- Layer 2 Self-help and community supports: Psychoeducation and information for specific issues impacting IPAs (See UNHCR – [UN Refugee Agency Guide to Ireland---Where to seek Help](#) Webpage. Provides link to voluntary and community sector support, Health Promotion and Improvement Officers across CHOs, National Educational Psychological Service (NEPS) Psychologists with responsibility for Wellbeing Framework in schools, Regional Education and Language (REALT) Teams)
- Layer 3 Focused Psychosocial Support: Consultation, Advice and Screening (See [My Mind- free online counselling for Ukrainians](#), [Counselling in Primary Care \(CIPC\)](#))
- Layer 4 Clinical Supports: Trauma Focused Intervention Services to People with PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder) (See [Understanding trauma and supporting the needs of people fleeing war and / or persecution' - directory of resources](#))

For the Deputy's information, a [webpage](#) has been developed to provide information on mental health supports for refugees and applicants seeking protection, which has a section specifically on supports for young people.

I trust this information is of assistance to you but should you have any further queries please contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Joseph Doyle
National Lead, Social Inclusion